

The President. Michael, I want to thank you all for giving us a chance to come and visit with you. There's a lot of issues that we face in Washington or here in Chicago. But there's no bigger issue than all of us remaining united to show the world what we're made out of, that people from all walks of life, all backgrounds, political parties, can come together to defend our country and at the same time elevate the spirit of this great land, to defend common values that are bigger than any single individual, and to serve a nation by helping somebody. It's really what we're talking about today, people willing to help themselves, as well as corporate America willing to provide an opportunity so people can succeed.

I want you to know that you live in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. The stories we hear here today speak to our greatness and speak to the fact that we will not rest as a nation when we see and find pockets of despair and hopelessness,

that in order to make this country complete, everybody has got to feel a part of its future—not just some but everybody. Oh, I know that's a high goal, but it's a goal we can achieve. Working together, it's something that this Nation can do. Out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. And part of that incredible good is that the promise of America extend its reach into every single neighborhood.

It is an honor for me to be here today. And it is an honor for me to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. God bless. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in a loading area of the UPS Jefferson Street Hub. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; Mike Eskew, chairman and chief executive officer, UPS; and former welfare recipients Vivian Kimmons and Guadalupe "Lupe" Meza, who participated in the discussion.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Jim Ryan in Chicago May 13, 2002

Well, thank you for that warm Chicago welcome. I appreciate your kind remarks, Governor. *[Laughter]* I want to thank you all for coming. Pat, thanks for your leadership. And I want to thank you all for supporting this good, honorable man to be become the next Governor of the State of Illinois.

I want to thank all the grassroots advocates who are here, those who man the phones and stuff the envelopes and get out the vote. I want to thank you for what you've done in the past, and I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do. I can just see the headlines: Ryan Replaces Ryan. *[Laughter]* Durkin Defeats Durbin.

And I want to thank Marie. We had our picture taken with the Ryan family. I

thought it was never going to end. That's a good sign. *[Laughter]* If all the Ryans vote, it's a landslide. *[Laughter]* But I want to thank Marie. Mother's Day must have been a heck of a day for you, with all those kids. And I want to thank the sons and daughter who are here. Marie has got four sons and a daughter. It reminds me of another name in American politics: Barbara has got four sons and a daughter. The difference is, is that your sons must be treating you better. You don't have any white hair. *[Laughter]* But I want to thank you for being a great wife, and soon to be a great first lady of the State of Illinois. And to you boys out there, you listen to your mother. *[Laughter]* I'm still listening to mine. *[Laughter]*

Speaking about great First Ladies, I'm sorry that Laura can't be with us today. She is off to Europe, and she's going to represent our country in the Czech Republic and Hungary and France. And then I'm going to team up with her there in about 9 days. I bring her up just to—you know, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She wasn't really interested in politics. And if the truth be known, she really didn't care for politicians. *[Laughter]* But thankfully, she agreed to marry me, and now the American people are beginning to see why. She is calm, and she is steady. She's got great values and a huge heart. A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. But she sends her love and wishes you all the best.

And I appreciate Senator Hawkinson being here, the next Lieutenant Governor for the State of Illinois. Thank you for coming, Senator.

Members of the Illinois delegation are here, some of them looking for a ride back to DC, I suspect. *[Laughter]* Just depends on how you vote. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate Senator Peter Fitzgerald for coming tonight—today. Peter, where are you? Thank you, Peter.

I think Chairman Henry Hyde thought I was teasing him. I told him today I was announcing the fact that Russia and United States agreed to a treaty to substantially reduce our offensive nuclear weapons. It is a treaty that will change the relationship between Russia and the United States for the better, for world peace. Mr. Chairman, I'm serious about talking to you about this treaty when we fly back to Washington. Henry Hyde, thank you for coming. He's what we call a solid citizen. And so are the other members of the congressional delegation who are here, Mark Kirk, Jerry Weller, Judy Biggert, as well as Ray LaHood. I appreciate you all coming as well.

I mentioned the fact that Durkin is going to beat Durbin. I want to thank Jim Durkin for being here and for running for the

United States Senate. I appreciate the Lieutenant Governor, Corinne Wood, for being here. Thank you for coming, Corinne. And the State treasurer—and the old State treasurer, Judy Baar. Where is she? Thank you, Judy. Yes, just kidding—well. *[Laughter]*

And finally—well, not quite finally—I'm glad to see my old friend Pate Philip. Pate, thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here. I remember going to your great county more than once to learn the lessons of good State politics at the foot of a master. Mr. Senator, thank you for being here. And I appreciate Lee Daniels being here as well. Lee, thank you for your leadership and your strong, strong support for the next Governor. Thank you, Lee.

Now I'm getting to the finally. I had the honor of knowing two great Governors, past Governors, who are here with us today, big Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you, Edgar.

I'm proud to support Jim Ryan. I appreciate, first of all, his heart and his philosophy. I call him a compassionate conservative, somebody who believes like I believe that if you embrace a conservative philosophy and you have a heart, you can help people. And that's what government is all about, is to help people help themselves, to understand the limitations of government, to apply government where it needs to be applied, but always remember, the idea is to make sure the American experience and the American Dream reaches every corner of our country. And that's the way Jim thinks. And that's an important attitude for the people of—for the Governor to have, for all the people. We're running as proud Republicans. We serve as a proud American.

I appreciate his strong stand on law enforcement. He's been given the job as the attorney general of this State to hold the law, to bring people to justice, to blow the whistle where a whistle needs to be blown. And he's done just that. If the people get

beyond the rhetoric in this campaign and look at the record, a record of accomplishment, the people of Illinois will put this man in the statehouse with the big numbers, because he has got a record of accomplishment as the attorney general: The truth-in-sentencing law; supports the first child advocacy center to deal with child abuse; he believes strongly in school safety. I mean, he's got a record.

And he's got a vision as well. See, he understands that the number-one priority of any State has got to be to make sure every child—every single child is educated. You know, we passed a really good education reform law in Washington, and it relates to this campaign. And I'll tell you how in a second.

But first, it's amazing what can happen when you put your country or your State ahead of petty politics. I was—and I must confess, it did confuse some of the folks at the Crawford, Texas, coffee shop, when I was traveling around the country with Theodore Kennedy—Ted Kennedy, thanking him for working on this bill. But we put it all aside, all the typical Washington, DC, bickering and name-calling, and decided to do something right for the children and passed a great piece of education reform.

And it starts with setting high standards. It starts with saying every child can learn in America, not a few, not just certain kind of children but every child. It believes that every child can learn. That's the way that Jim Ryan thinks.

Secondly, it says that in order to understand whether every child is learning, we must measure. We must hold people to account as to whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. I've heard all the talk about school accountability. Let me put it on the line: It is racist and it is wrong not to determine whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is a mistake not to measure.

And a system that does not measure—a system that does not measure is a system that has low expectations. A system that won't hold people to account as to whether or not our children are learning is a system that's more likely just to shuffle kids through as if they don't matter. Every child matters in America. And in order to receive Federal money, after I signed this bill, the people of Illinois and Texas and every State must determine whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we'll praise the teachers, and they need to be praised. But if not, here's your chance to change.

If we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, you need to change. You need to have a Governor who's willing to blow the whistle on failure. Every child matters. Every child counts. That's why I'm for Jim Ryan. He's willing to take on the status quo when he finds children in schools that will not teach.

And finally, the bill I signed says that the people who care more about the children in the State of Illinois are the people of Illinois. It has a strong component of local control. We're passing power out of Washington. We're giving maximum flexibility at the local level, so the local folks can chart the path to excellence. Listen, one size doesn't fit all. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to the education of the children of the State of Illinois. And you'd better have you a Governor who understands that and who won't stand for excuses and who's willing to innovate when innovation is needed. The number-one priority of any Governor in any State has got to be the education of the children of the State. And Jim Ryan understands that.

I just came from Big Brown, UPS, where the mayor, thankfully, was there to greet me. I appreciate the mayor a lot. As I said publicly, I learned one thing: It's better to have him for you than against you. *[Laughter]* But I appreciate his leadership for this great city. It's a fabulous city you live in. And we were talking about welfare

to work and the fact that millions of people have moved from welfare to work, for the betterment of our country. It's helped our country. It's also helped each individual person when they realize the dignity of work.

And we were talking about the need to make sure that corporate Illinois or corporate America does its part about helping people go from welfare to work. Big Brown has hired 52,000 people from the welfare rolls. We had two young ladies, young moms, talk about what it means to go from welfare to work. It's just a compelling story and a great morning for me.

The reason I bring it up is, we're in the midst of reauthorization of the welfare reform. And it's important for States to continue to strive for high standards when it comes to deploying resources to help people find work. It's essential you have a Governor who feels compassionate about each individual and who works hard and tirelessly to provide the job training necessary and the education necessary so that Americans can have the dignity of a job.

And so when I talked about advocating maximum flexibility for States in the welfare to work—I mean, the welfare reauthorization bill, it gave me great comfort to know that Jim Ryan is going to be the next Governor of the State of Illinois, because he cares about people and he's willing to bring people together to achieve the common objective.

I'm confident that when you have a man of good values who knows what he thinks, who doesn't need to take a poll or focus group to figure out his direction that he's going to head in life, he's going to make a good leader for your State. And I'm proud to support him.

I also look forward to working with your Governor to make sure that the State of Illinois is prepared to respond, should the enemy hit us again. And they want to. I know that every morning when I go in the Oval Office and read a threat—a threat assessment to our country, they're inter-

ested in hitting us again. Kids say, "Why? Why would they want to do that to America?" Because they hate us. And the reason they hate us is, we love freedom. We cherish our freedoms. We love the idea that people can worship freely in America; that's something we strongly believe in. They don't like that. And we can speak our minds freely, and we can come to political gatherings, make our decisions in freedom. We have free press. We're an open society. That bothers the enemy a lot.

And they're still out there. And you need to know that we're doing everything we can, everything in our power, to make the United States safe. My most important job is to protect innocent Americans. Our law enforcement agencies are talking like they've never talked before. Anytime we get a hint of anything, we're sharing information across jurisdictional boundaries; we're running down every possible lead. We operate—proudly operate within the confines of the United States Constitution. But there is no hint, no lead that is insignificant, as far as we're concerned.

But you need to know that the most—the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down one by one and bring them to justice. That's precisely what the United States of America is going to do.

There's been some interesting lessons. First of all, I always kind of felt that the farther we got away from September the 11th—my worry was, the farther we got away, that the more likely it is America will say, "Maybe it's not worth it." I'm proud to report that's not the case. In my travels around our country, I have seen what must make the enemy feel terrible, a united, resolved, strong nation which says that we'll do whatever it takes to defend the values that we hold dear. And that's comforting to me, and it's not so comforting to them.

You know, I can't imagine what was going through their mind when they attacked. They must have looked at America

and said that this Nation is so self-absorbed, so shallow in its materialism that all America would likely do is maybe file a couple of lawsuits. They were wrong. They found out that we are plenty tough, and we're going to remain tough. I unleashed a military that should make every one of you proud.

You will read about the budgets I submitted. By the way, right here in Chicago I was asked, when I was campaigning here, they said, "Hey, Mr. President, would you ever have a deficit?" I said, "Only if there was a war or a recession or a national emergency." [Laughter] Yeah, we've got one right now. But it's worth it because we're fighting for freedom. And when we bring some fiscal discipline to Washington, it's going to help make the deficit short-term.

And I submitted a big budget, no question about it, for defense. And I did it for a reason. One, anytime we commit our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, the best equipment possible. That's what we owe our military. And secondly, it is important to show the world that we're in this for the long run, and that while there may not be dramatic action on your TV screens on a daily basis, we're making progress. And it's going to take awhile.

This is a new kind of war. This isn't a war of known fronts and carrier movements and battle stations being manned on a regular basis. We're facing a shadowy enemy. Look, these are the guys that send youngsters to their suicide death, and they, themselves, try to hide in caves. It's a new form of warfare, and it's going to require incredible patience.

And the American people have got to understand, we're in it for the long run. Our coalition must understand that we're in it for the long run. They do; I tell them all the time, see. I say, "This is freedom we're fighting for. This is—this is—this is the most important value that we believe in, in America. Either you're with us, or

you're against us, and I expect you to be with us. We're in it for the long pull." And that's what that budget says.

We've been successful; we've been successful. We enforced the doctrine that said, if you harbor one—"one" being a killer—you're just as guilty as the killer. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. But in enforcing that doctrine, we showed another side of America as well. We showed not only are we tough, not only are we wise with the military strategy, not only were we able to win a guerrilla war using interesting new technologies, we liberated a nation.

I want the young of America to understand that we went into a country and freed people. We didn't conquer people; we freed people from the clutches of a barbaric regime that would not even let young girls go to school. And today, they do in Afghanistan, thanks to the United States of America.

No, it's going to take awhile, but we're making progress; you just need to know, we really are. We're doing a better job of cutting off their money, and that's important. We're getting the kind of—sometimes we're getting a hint where somebody might be trying to hide out, and we're kind of rallying people to get them. There's countries that looked like they were potential safe havens, a nice place for maybe the terrorists to train. They're no longer safe havens for the terrorists.

We're just taking our time and doing our job. And that's what the American people want. That's what the coalition is seeing. There's a lot of people who are out there, saying, probably, "Gosh, we kind of hoped the United States would grow tired of all this. It would make our life a lot easier at home." Forget it. [Laughter] We're not growing tired of it. My most important job is to protect the security of the American people, and I take that seriously. I also understand history has called us into action, and our country will not blink in the face of evil.

I also believe that by leading a coalition and by being firm and resolute and strong, that out of the evil that has been done to America will come incredible good, starting with peace. I believe if we're patient and strong and deliberate, we'll be able to achieve peace. And that's important to me, and I know it's important to you as well. We don't seek revenge as a nation. We seek justice, and we seek peace.

I also believe that out of the evil can come some incredible good at home. I believe that. I'm asked all the time by people that say, "What can I do to help on the war against terror?" My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to show the world what we're made out of, that we're stronger than just military might, why don't you mentor a child. Teach a child to read. Why don't you go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and start an initiative to help folks who live in pockets of deep despair.

That's how you fight the war against terror, and that's how we can make an enormous difference in our own country. I truly believe that America—the great strength of America is our hearts and souls. And out of this evil can come some great good. I see it all the time. I see it in small acts of generosity and kindness that will astound you.

Today at the Meigs Field, I met two folks who have fostered 90 children here in Chicago—90 children. It's unbelievable to think about that. Two good—it didn't require a Government act or a Government edict. They just decided to do that. And it happens all the time in our community. If you really want to fight evil, find out a way to contribute your time and efforts and money and talent to making one person's life brighter. That's how we change America. I like to say, each of us can't do everything, but each of us can do one thing. See, America changes one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Out of this evil is going to come good. There's a new attitude in America about serving something greater than yourself. It was highlighted to me, and I'm sure most of the country—and history should record this moment—about Flight 93, when you had people on an airplane. They're flying from one place, one part of our country to another. They find out the plane is going to be used as a weapon. They tell their loved ones on the cell phones they love them; they say a prayer; and they drive the plane into the ground to save somebody's life, to serve something greater than themselves.

I truly believe that out of the evil done to America can come a sense of serving something greater than a materialistic society. And therefore, America is going to be a more hopeful place for all. The true strength of America is our people. That's the strength of our country. And I can't tell you how proud I am to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming to help Jim. May God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:11 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to event chairman Patrick G. Ryan, chairman and chief executive officer, Aon Corp.; Marie Ryan, wife of candidate Jim Ryan, and their children, John, Jim, Matt, Patrick, and Amy; former First Lady Barbara Bush; Gov. George H. Ryan of Illinois; State Representative Jim Durkin, candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois; State Senator Carl E. Hawkinson, candidate for Lieutenant Governor; State Senate President James "Pate" Philip; State House Republican Leader Lee A. Daniels; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; and foster parents Adrienne and Jerry Welenc.

Remarks on Signing the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002

May 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored today to sign a bill that is an important step in an effort to secure our border, while promoting trade and commerce. It's a good piece of legislation. It's bipartisan legislation. And I want to thank the members of both parties who have worked hard to get this bill to my desk.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, who's here. Where are you, Tom? Oh, you're Tom Ridge, yeah. *[Laughter]* At least that's what some of the Members are saying. I particularly want to thank Senators Kyl and Brownback and Kennedy, Feinstein, and Hatch for being here—fine, fine Members of the United States Senate. I want to thank you for coming. I also want to appreciate Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and George Gekas as well. These Members worked hard on this legislation. I want to thank the members of my administration who are here.

I also want to say hello to Arlene Howard. Ms. Howard, it's good to see you. A lot of folks might remember—you can stand up. *[Applause]* Thank you for coming. Arlene gave me her son, George's, badge and—as a reminder of the evil that had been done to our country. You look great. I remember when I went over to Yankee Stadium to throw out the ball there at the World Series, Arlene's—one of Arlene's other sons was there. Where is he? Oh, there he is. Thanks for the advice—aim high. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Peter Johnson, who was George's partner for 12 years. Peter, thanks for coming. It's good to see you. I appreciate you being here. Thank you, sir.

I want to welcome you all. I was looking at Arlene and the brave folks here; it reminds me of what was done to us there on September 11th and how important it

is that we remain tough and strong and diligent as we seek justice, as we chase down these killers one by one and bring them to justice.

And that's a major responsibility of all of ours, and it's a responsibility we take seriously. The country is united in our drive for justice. This Nation is determined, and we're patient, much to the chagrin of the enemy. It must make them really worried to know that we don't have a calendar that says, on such-and-such a date we're going to quit, that when it comes to our freedoms—defending our freedoms and securing our homeland and protecting our innocent Americans and never forgetting what happened on September the 11th, we are some kind of tough. And that's the way it's going to be.

We've got responsibilities here at home as well, and it starts with our borders. Our borders process an incredibly huge number of people. It may come as a surprise to some of you, but there's—over 500 million people a year enter America, and half of those are our own citizens that may have been traveling. We have 11 million trucks come across our borders. We have 51,000 foreign ships call into our ports. It reminds us that no nation can be totally secure or more secure, unless we're well-protected and unless our borders are well-screened. We must know who's coming into our country and why they're coming. We must know what our visitors are doing and when they leave. That's important for us to know. It's knowledge necessary to make our homeland more secure.

America is not a fortress; no, we never want to be a fortress. We're a free country. We're an open society. And we must always protect the rights of our law—of law-abiding citizens from around the world who come here to conduct business or to study